

## REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 11, 2007, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by April 11, 2007.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, and 13-16 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the restriction requirement was made final and claims 6, 7, 11, 12, and 18 were withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 1-3, 9, 10, 13, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,783,877 B2 to Shimazu et al.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 4, 5, 8, 14, and 17, if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to add the features of allowable claim 4, which was canceled. Claim 16 was amended to include the features of allowed claim 17, which also was canceled. Allowed claims 5, 8, and 14 also were rewritten in independent form. .

In addition, claim 10 has been written in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1. The Applicants submit that claim 10 also is patentable over the art of record.

The Examiner argues that Shimazu shows a fuel cell system comprising a reactor unit with a first of the outlet openings arranged upstream of a second of the outlet openings in a flow direction of the operating medium stream as shown

in Fig. 10. Fig. 10 shows a reactor comprising three outlet openings 88D, 89D, and 90D. All of these outlet openings are switched in parallel; ***none of them is arranged upstream of another one***. Because Shimazu does not disclose or show all of the features of claim 10, claim 10 also should be allowable over this reference.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, and 13-16 are patentable over the cited art.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to resolve any issues that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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